

School Board Balks at Sewer Fee Proposal

Torrance Press-Herald

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REDEVELOPMENT AREA

Freeze to Stay Despite Plea to Clean Up Land

Relief from an emergency ordinance prohibiting the clean up of property located within the Airport Redevelopment Area was denied a Torrance property owner last night by the City Council. The council acted in its capacity as the Redevelopment Agency Board.

Tokiye Yamaguchi, through attorney A. P. G. Steffes of Los Angeles, sought relief from an ordinance adopted Dec. 15, 1964, which prohibited the removal of old greenhouses from his property. The land is located at the corner of Pacific Coast Highway and Hawthorne Avenue.

Yamaguchi's property was included in the city's application for funds under the urban renewal program.

Steffes told councilmen his client has plans for development of the property. He also told the council that there

were two essentials for urban renewal funds: the existence of blight and the unwillingness or inability of property owners to remove the blight. "That is absolutely untrue in this particular case," Steffes said. "We want to go on with the contract that we have let to remove the blight."

Councilman J. A. Beasley interrupted Steffes to explain that the presence of low-flying aircraft in the area created the blight.

City Manager Edward J. Ferraro, who serves as executive secretary of the Redevelopment Agency, said the Yamaguchi property had been included in the redevelopment area because it will receive direct benefits from the project and the additional revenues would help to pay some of the costs. Ferraro also said the contract which

Yamaguchi had signed was voided when the city enacted the ordinance.

"From the standpoint of philosophy, I'd like to say fine," Ferraro said, "but from the standpoint of the smaller property owners in the area who'll have to pay, I can't."

Ferraro also said he hopes the Yamaguchis will keep their property and develop it. The practice is common in urban renewal projects under owner participation agreements.

"I would quit the practice of law if I had to stay as attorney for the Yamaguchi family should they go into an owner participation agreement," Steffes said. The attorney then said he believes the emergency ordinance is void.

"Take it to court," Beasley told him. The request for relief was denied on a 6-1 vote, George Vico voted to grant the relief.

Bond Sale Authorized At Airport

Sale of \$400,000 in Municipal Airport bonds from the 1962 authorization was approved by the City Council last night. Councilmen authorized issuance of the bonds and ordered them advertised for sale.

Funds from the bond sale will be used for capital improvements at the airport during the new year.

William Uerkwitz, representing the Southwood Riviera Homeowners Association, asked the council how much of the money would be used for extension of the runways at the airport. Airport Manager Jack Egan told the council "absolutely none of the funds will be used for runway extension." Egan also said no one was contemplating increasing the runway length.

DURING THE two-hour meeting, councilmen:

- Adopted a Uniform Housing Code on its second and final reading. The code gives the city the power to enforce

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State College Opening Delayed Another Year

Gunplay Out, Say Trustees

A scheduled assembly at North High on western folklore and the art of the fast draw apparently will be canceled following action by the Board of Education Monday evening.

The board was asked to approve an assembly program by Stan Sweet of National School Assemblies—a program entitled "A Modern Sport of Fast Draw Demonstrated in Championship Style."

Trustee Albert Charles balked at the idea of demonstrating fast draws at a school assembly, and asked that approval of the program be denied.

Dr. Albert Posner, assistant superintendent of schools for instruction, told the board the title didn't tell all. Dr. Posner said Sweet's program included a presentation on western folklore and history and some demonstrations on how western movie scenes are put together. He described the program as entertaining and added that "no live ammunition is used."

SWEET IS A champion marksman and expert on the use of a six-shooter. He does demonstrate fast draw tricks during his program.

Board members agreed to modify their stand on the program and give Sweet the choice of eliminating the fast draw portions of canceling the assembly.

Dr. Posner told the Press-Herald yesterday he had relayed the board's feelings to Dr. Richard Guengerich, principal at North High. "I believe they will cancel the program," Dr. Posner said. He added that it would be difficult for Sweet to modify his program to omit the six-shooter demonstrations.

IN OTHER matters, the board:

- Awarded a contract for electric typewriters for West High School to Underwood Corp. The firm bid \$7,808 for 32 typewriters.
- Awarded a contract for three new pickup trucks to Al Ortale Rambler of Torrance. The district traded three trucks which have been in service since 1950.
- Refused again to consider a request which would have permitted Dr. Carl Ahee, Torrance High principal, to attend the Miami Convention of the National Association of Secondary School Administrators Jan. 15-20.

Councilman Heads Club

Councilman H. T. (Ted) Olson will be installed as president of the Torrance Kiwanis Club succeeding Paul Shindo on Saturday night.

Olson, who has been serving as first vice president during the past year, will be seated in ceremonies at the Palos Verdes Country Club beginning at 8 p.m.



HOLIDAY HELP... Members of the Downtown Torrance Lions Club delivered turkeys and all the trimmings to 12 needy families in Torrance during the Christmas holidays. William Branson (far right), assistant manager of the Magic Chef Market, gets some eager help from Lions Donald Wolf, Ernest Harris, Leon Di Palma, John Martin, and Dave Harbison in filling the shopping cart.

Board Claims Sewer Fee Idea Is 'Disgraceful'

Possible new fees for the maintenance of the city's sewer system started a verbal war between the school district and city hall Monday evening during the regular meeting of the Board of Education.

Trustees labeled a proposal to impose service charges on property owners—including the school district—to maintain the sewer system "disgraceful" and instructed Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent of schools, to communicate the board's feelings to City Manager Edward J. Ferraro.

THE VERBAL barrage began when Dr. Hull handed a letter from City Engineer Walter M. Nollac to the board. Nollac said the city "is planning to establish a sewer service charge which will be applicable to all properties within the city that are connected to the sanitary sewer system."

Nollac said the city felt the schools, as large water users in the city, should "participate along with all other properties in the city." The fee would be based on the size of the water meter and paid with the city's water billing. Fees for single family homes would be about 25 cents per month, while other properties might pay as much as \$5 or \$6 per month.

Dr. Hull had estimated the school district's bill for such a fee at a "maximum of \$3,000 per year."

The superintendent told board members, "It doesn't appear to be a reasonable procedure for one tax-supported agency to collect taxes from the residents and turn the proceeds over to another."

"Your recommendation, Dr. Hull, is very good and very mild," trustee Bert Lynn said. "Everytime you turn around there's a new fee out there," he added, referring to City Hall.

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CITY COUNCILMEN had a few words to say about the trustees' reaction when they convened Tuesday evening.

Ferraro explained the proposal, then told councilmen his office would complete the study and bring it before them when "we know what we are talking about." Ferraro also said, "no one from the school district came into city hall for any information."

Mayor Albert Isen said the proposal had been discussed, along with other proposals to put some services on a pay-as-you-use basis to eliminate their financial dependency on the city's general fund.

"There is no reason for any tempest now," Isen said. "This will be gone into logically and coolly."

DR. HULL, in comments on

The Mayor Gets His Flag, Too

Six triangles and a square...

Mayor Albert Isen went to the council meeting last night with seven small flags of Turkey, a gift from the mayor of Torrance's sister city Konya. One flag was square; the other six were triangular pennants.

His honor offered to give the pennants to each of the six councilmen and "forego one for myself." But City Attorney Stanley Remelmeier couldn't resist the impulse to say what everyone else was thinking. "The square one is obviously for the mayor!" cracked Remelmeier.

Land Purchase Hits a Snag; Opening Nixed

Opening of the new state college on the Palos Verdes Peninsula has been postponed for at least a year because of delays in obtaining land for the campus, it was disclosed yesterday.

John F. Richardson, vice chancellor for business affairs for the fledgling college, said a request for \$704,357 to rent temporary quarters was made to the Department of Finance, but the department turned down the request. Had the request been granted, temporary quarters would have been located and the college opened in September, 1965.

HALE CHAMPION, state finance director, said his department denied the request because potential students in the area can be accommodated on other campuses of the state college system.

Dr. Leo F. Cain, president of the college, has said plans are being made to open in the fall of 1966. About 200 acres of land are needed on the Peninsula site selected by the Board of Trustees of the California State Colleges.

GREAT LAKES Carbon Co. had expressed a willingness to sell property in the area to the college, but company and college officials were unable to agree on a price. Nortronics, Inc., has been unwilling to sell portions of their site for college uses. As a result, condemnation proceedings have been initiated. The condemnation suit has been scheduled to come before the courts in April.

Disclosure of the delays in securing land for permanent campus was the latest chapter in a story which began when Torrance and the Peninsula fought a pitched battle for location of the college. Trustees selected the Peninsula site nearly a year ago, but have been unable to acquire any land since that time.

Nicholas Dralle, former Torrance city councilman who spearheaded efforts to locate the college in this city, recently demanded a full report on the status of the college from Governor Edmund G. Brown.

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Sympathy Aids Bandit ---

Two construction workers became unwitting aids to an accused bandit yesterday when they drove him to Harbor General Hospital from a Wilmington street on the belief that the man's daughter was dying. A 26-year-old Miralesta man was arrested at his home later by police who said he had been released Tuesday after serving out a petty theft conviction, had robbed a bank at 1009 Avalon Blvd. about noon, and had returned to his home. The suspect's daughter is in the hospital.

Bomb Scare in Center ---

Sheriff's deputies and a bomb demolition squad were called to the Peninsula Center Newberry Store Monday for the second time in a week to investigate a reported bomb in the store. Monday's scare proved to be just that. Someone apparently left a lunchpail with highway flares and several yards of wire and tape in the store. Earlier in the week, a small radio was mistaken for a bomb by accident. The latest "bomb" apparently was not so innocent.

Citizens Group Meets ---

The city's 21-member Citizen's Advisory Committee on the urban renewal project being initiated at the west end of Torrance Municipal Airport will hold its first meeting Thursday. The group will convene at the Joslyn Recreation Center at 7:45 p.m., according to City Manager Edward Ferraro.

Traffic Signal Promised ---

Installation of traffic signals at Madrona Avenue and Torrance Boulevard should be completed about March 15, City Engineer Walter M. Nollac told councilmen last night. Final plans must be forwarded to the State Division of Highways for approval. Councilman H. Ted Olson asked that the possibility of a police officer directing traffic at peak hours be explored in the interim period.



FLOWERY GREETING... Torrance's "Happy New Year" float is shown here in Pasadena's Victory Park following the New Year's Day parade where it was displayed along with other floats. Thousands visited the park to view this and other floats Saturday and Sunday. (Press-Herald Photo)

De La Vega Ordained At Vatican

Robert J. De La Vega of Torrance has been ordained into the Catholic priesthood at the Vatican City. He was one of 62 Americans, all graduates of the North American College, to be ordained at St. Peter's Basilica Dec. 16.

The son of Rafael De La Vega of 16622 Ogram Ave., De La Vega attended the North American College under the sponsorship of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles for the past 42 months. He remains in Rome and is expected to return to Los Angeles in June.

De La Vega attended St. John's Seminary prior to leaving for the Vatican City.

Following the ordination, De La Vega and his family toured Spain and France. The family returned to Torrance Sunday.



FUND CONFERENCE... Joseph F. Tudor (center), chairman of the Heart Association's 1965 fund raising campaign, confers with two of his top aids, Gilbert A. Pando of Torrance (left) and Joseph E. Hulbert of Santa Monica. Pando and Hulbert are Security First National Bank executives.